Medical Grants Commission

* 199. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Medical Grants Commission;

(b) if so, the main features, aims and objectives of the Commission; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) There is a proposal for establishment of Medical Grants Commission. The mandate and functions of the Commission are being formulated. However, steps for setting up of the said Commission can be initiated during the 11th Five Year Plan Period subject to availability of necessary funds. The matter for provision of funds for this purpose is being pursued with the Planning Commission.

Objection against price of KG Basin's Gas

*200. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had raised strong objections against the high price of gas from RIL's KG Basin;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that gas prices beyond $5 per Million British thermal units (MMBTU) would lead to an increase in the ballooning of subsidy bill; and

(d) if so, what would be the incremental rise in the fertilizer subsidy and by whom that increase would be absorbed?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has pointed out that adequate availability of gas at delivered price upto USS 5 per MMBTU is necessary for desired growth of urea sector in the country. It is estimated that new investments in urea sector within the country may become uncompetitive in the domestic market *vis-a-vis* imported urea, beyond delivered gas price of USS 5 per MMBTU.

(c) and (d) The weighted average price of gas presently available to indigenous urea industry is USS 3.973 per MMBTU. It is estimated that a one dollar increase in average feedstock price at present level of production will lead to an increase in cost of production/subsidy by approximately Rs.2000 crore. Under the present subsidy regime, the difference between the normative cost of production including the actual cost of feedstock and the notified selling prices of urea, is subsidized by the Government.